A True and Exact
RELATION
OF THE MOST
Dreadful Earthquake
Which happened in the
City of Naples,
AND
Several other Parts of that KINGDOM,
June the 5*th*, 1688.

Whereby about forty Cities and Villages were either wholly ruin'd, or extreamly damnified; Eight thousand Persons destroy'd, and about Eight hundred wounded; of which four hundred were digg'd out of the Ruins, and many others miraculously preserved.

Translated from the *Italian Copy*, printed at *Naples*, by an Eye-witness of those miserable Ruins.

Eccles. 3. 14. *And God doth it that men should fear before him.*

LONDON,
Printed, and are to be sold by *Randal Taylor*, near *Stationers-Hall*. 1688.

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To T. G. *Esq;*

I *Have perused the astonishing Account of the* Earthquake *you brought from* Naples, *and to strengthen the Opinion I then had of the Natural Causes of those* Terræ Motus, *I have affix'd the Judgment of the most Ingenious* Dr. F. *which I chose rather to repeat than refer to, by reason the Book it self is not to be obtained without some difficulty. If you intend to be more critical on this Subject, I refer you to the Learned* Fromondus, *where you'll be more fully satisfied, than perhaps you may think your self to be by,*

SIR,

Your obliged Friend and Servant,

J. P.

Of Earthquakes, and the ſeveral kinds of them.

AN Earthquake is a ſhaking of the Earth, cauſed of Wind and *Exhalations*, incloſed within the caves of the Earth, and can find no paſſage to break forth, or elſe ſo narrow a way that it cannot ſoon enough be delivered.

Wherefore, with great force and violence it breaketh out, and one while ſhaketh the Earth, another while rendeth and cleaveth the ſame: ſometimes it caſteth up the Earth a great height into the Air, and ſometime it cauſeth the ſame to ſink a great depth down, ſwallowing both Cities and Towns, yea, and alſo mighty great Mountains, leaving in the place where they ſtood nothing but great holes of an unknown depth, or elſe great Lakes of Water.

Divers Authors write diverſly of the kinds of Earthquakes, ſome making more and ſome leſs, but we ſhall be content at this time to comprehend them in four ſorts.

The firſt kind is, when the Earth is ſhaken laterally, to one ſide, which is, when the whole force of the wind driveth to one place, and there is no other contrary motion to let it. This Wind, if it be not great, ſhaketh the Earth, that it trembleth as a man that hath a fit of an Ague, and doth no more harm: but if it be great and violent, it looſeth the foundations of all Buildings, be they never ſo ſtrong, and overthroweth whole Cities, but eſpecially the great Buildings, and not only ſuch Buildings, but ſometimes alſo caſteth down great Hills, that cover and overwhelm all the Valleys under them. Many noble and great Ci-

Cities have been overthrown by this kind of Earthquake. It is written, that twelve of the moſt beautifull Cities, and moſt ſumptuous Buildings in all *Aſia*, were overthrown and utterly deſtroyed with an Earthquake. How often *Antiochia*, yea, within ſhort time, was deſtroyed, they which have read the Hiſtories can teſtifie.

How terrible was the Earthquake that ſhook *Conſtantinople* a whole year together, that the Emperour and all the people were fain to dwell abroad in the fields under tents and pavilions, for fear their houſes would fall on their heads. It is recorded in the Chronicles, and worthy to be remembred.

The ſecond kind is, when the Earth with great violence is liſted up, ſo that the Buildings are like to fall, and by and by ſinketh down again: this is, when all the force of the Winds ſtrive to get upward, after the nature of gunpowder, and finding ſome way to be delivered out of bondage, the Earth that was hoiſted up, returneth to his old place.

The third kind is, a gaping, rending, or cleaving of the Earth, when the Earth ſinketh down, and ſwalloweth up Cities, and Towns, with Caſtles and Towers, Hills and Rocks, Rivers and Floods, ſo that they be never ſeen again.

Yea, the Sea in ſome places hath been drunk up, ſo that men might have gone over on foot, until the time of Tide or Flood returning covered the place with Waters again. But in the Land where this Earthquake ſwalloweth up any City or Country, there appeareth nothing in the place thereof, but a marvellous wide and deep gulph or hole. *Ariſtotle* maketh mention of divers Places and Regions that were overthrown with this kind of Earthquake.

The fourth kind is, when great Mountains are caſt up out of the Earth, or elſe when ſome part of the land ſinketh down, and inſtead thereof ariſe Rivers, Lakes, or

Fires,

Fires, breaking out with ſmoke and aſhes. It cauſeth alſo overflowings of the Sea, when the Sea bottom is lifted up; and by this means ariſe many Iſlands in the Sea, that never were ſeen before. Theſe and other ſuch miracles are often found in the Writers of Hiſtories, and alſo in the *Philoſophers*, as *Ariſtotle*, *Seneca*, and *Plinie*.

Nevertheleſs, the effects of ſome, as moſt notable, it will not be unprofitable to recite. *Plato* in his *Dialogue* entituled *Timens*, maketh mention by the way of a wonderfull Earthquake, whereby not only *Africa* was rent aſunder from *Europe* and *Aſia*, (as it is indeed at this day, except a little neck by the red Sea,) the Sea entring between them, that now is called *Mare Mediterraneum*: but alſo a wonderfull great Iſland, which he affirmeth, was greater than *Africa* and *Aſia* both, called *Atlantis*, was ſwallowed up, and covered by the Waters, inſomuch, that on the Sea called *Atlanticum*, for a great while after, no ſhip could ſail, by reaſon that the ſame huge Sea, by reſolution of the Earth of that mighty Iſland was all turned into mud.

The famous Iſle of *Sicilia* was alſo ſometime a part of *Italy*, and by Earthquake rent aſunder from it. *Seneca* maketh mention of two Iſlands, *Theron* and *Therea*, that in his time firſt appeared. It ſhould ſeem, both by *Ariſtotle* and *Herodotus*, that *Egypt* in ancient time was a Gulph of the Sea, and by Earthquake made a dry Land. During the Reign of *Tiberius* the Emperour, twelve notable Cities of *Aſia* were overthrown in one Night, *&c.*

Many other Examples of Earthquakes that have happen'd in former Ages might here be inſerted, but for brevity ſake I omit them, and referr you to the enſuing Relation, which is of no longer date than *June* laſt.

A

True and Exact Relation

OF THE

Terrible Earthquake

Which hapned in the

City and Kingdom of Naples,

on the 5*th* of *June*, 1688.

With an Account of the Cities, Villages, and other Places that were ruined by it.

AS the Secrets of the Divine Judgments cannot be penetrated by any Humane Underſtanding, ſo if it ſometimes diſcourſeth of them, it falls into a thouſand Errors, and never hits the mark; and when it thinks to have penetrated into the moſt hidden *Arcana*'s of Gods Works, it finds its ſelf overwhelm'd in a profound darkneſs of groſs Ignorance, that ſo every one may learn not to endeavour to know more than is con-

venient for them : for if ſome *Icarus* ſhould pretend with the Vanities of his own Capacity, to ſurpaſs the Immence diſtances of the Divine Operations, he will find himſelf precipitated into a *Chaos* of perpetual Ignominies. The World, as it ſpheres by Fortune, rouls continually ; and therefore, to Day thou ſhalt ſee it a dead Corps, and little leſs than rotten, and to Morrow thou ſhalt ſee it riſen to new Glories: Cities dye, Bodies of Monarchies dye, moldring away until they leave no remembrance of them. Give a glance with your Eye on the Monarchies of the *Aſſirians*, the *Medes*, the *Perſians*, the *Græcians* and *Romans* ; and you ſhall find that of the great Bodies of Empires which they were, they changed into Cadavers, and terminated into nothing. To find out the cauſe of ſuch like Ruins is not in the power of Humane Knowledge, but we ought to content our ſelves with the alone Contemplation of ſo many Viciſſitudes, as proceeding from the Hands of the Supreme Agent: He diſpoſes at his Pleaſure of all the Creation, and will not that any one ask him why he does it. Theſe changes of Scenes are beheld at preſent in *Naples*, which City being the only

ly of *Europe* for the many favours of Nature and Fortune, and the greateſt of Heaven, is the alone Pilgrimage for thoſe who would ſee in a City the Beauties of all *Europe* Epitomiz'd: The Mountain *Veſſuvius*, which is near it, and often with whirling Flames, as it were a two-edg'd Sword, ſhews it, (the Fire preſerving it) Paradiſe; the *Syreneſſea* waſheth the foot of it, where among the Caves of the Sea of *Pauſilipus* and *Mergellina* were buried the ancient Relicts of Monarchs. The River *Sebetus* affords it very healthful Waters, the Winter approaches it not ſo as to diſturb it, but only to temperate the Seaſon; in this Air the Spring is never diſturbed by the *North* Wind, it only enjoys ſo much Rain as to make the Ground fruitful, and render the Country abundant.

But behold on a ſudden, ſo great Imbelliſhments changed into Horror, and that City, which calls its ſelf the Garden of the Miſtriſs-like *Italy*, little leſs than pulled up by the Roots; the Beauty of its Palaces deformed, the Magnificency of its Edifices proſtrate to the Ground, abandoned by its Citizens, and on the point to remain deſolate, if the Protection of the Almighty do

not ſecure it ſo as not to fear any new Chaſtiſements.

Naples then on *Saturday* the Fifth of the Month of *June* laſt paſt, from its natural ſerenity of Climate, was reduced to the horrour of an unheard of Cataſtrophe, ſince that the fierce Earthquake which hapned about the one and twentieth Hour of the ſame Day, ſeemed to threaten its final Diſtruction; for though indeed it laſted but for a ſhort time, however ſuch was the Agitation, that the Ruines cauſed by it requires Ages and immenſe Treaſures to repair them.

The firſt and moſt lamentable Spectacle which preſented it ſelf to the ſight of the Citizens, (who beheld it not without an abundant profuſion of Tears) was that which compos'd the Ruines of the rich and ſingular Church of the profeſt Houſe of the Fathers of the company call'd *New Jeſus*; the great *Cupola*, with two other collateral being fallen; the firſt was painted by the famous Cavalier *Lanfranco*, of whoſe Pencil only are remaining untouch'd the firſt four Angles, which repreſent the four Evangeliſts, and one of the two laſt was painted by *John Bellardino*, called the *Cicilian*, and the other by the famous *Lu-*

ca

ea Gordano, now living, beſides all the remainder of the Church is in a manner open'd, and the Covering of the great Chappel of St. *Ignatius*, painted by *Belizarius*, is totally ruined: Moreover, the Houſe is ſhaken and hurt to ſuch a degree, that thoſe Fathers do doubt whether they may be able to inhabit it without expoſing themſelves to the manifeſt danger of being buried under the Ruines. The Fathers *Bruno* and *Bertone*, who were confeſſing in the Church, and one Brother *Sexton*, were all three killed, only the firſt had the time to receive the Sacraments, he being miraculouſly half alive drawn out from under the Ruines. The number of the Seculars that periſhed is not yet known, for that they remain buried amongſt the fallen Stones, being certainly known, that amongſt them is buried a Cavalier of the Houſe of *Borgia*, who that day had terminated his Spiritual Exerciſes with the fall of this Church. All People judged that for that time the Fury of Heaven had ceaſed, for that every one eſteemed the Divine Anger to be ſatisfied in throwing to the ground the principal Miracle of *Europe*; but becauſe this was a Chaſtiſement which wounded *Naples* to remind it of ſome

paſt

paſt Error, and that it ſhould amend for the future, it paſſed onwards with its blows, ſtriking the Church of St. *Paul* of the *Teatians*, which ſuffered notably, all the Porch being fallen, and part of the Columns, which were eight, of which only three remain ſtanding, which will be taken down, whilſt thoſe that fell have cauſed a deplorable heap of Ruines, with the death of many, there being hitherto dig'd out only twenty eight, and thoſe had not periſhed, but that they rann into the ſaid Church for ſafety. Here was that ſo much celebrated Temple of *Caſtor* and *Pollux*, where St. *Peter* the Apoſtle in paſſing by cauſed the Idols to fall to the Ground in pieces; and this was one of the moſt conſpicuous Antiquities that was ſeen in this City.

In the Convent of the Holy Apoſtles, likewiſe belonging to the Fathers *Teatians*, are fallen three Dormitories newly built, the Congregation and two Belfries joyning to the Clock: In the fall of the ſaid Dormitories there hath been ruined a contiguous Palace. But here is to be noted for a ſingular prodigy, that in the Cells there were at that time only two Fathers, whoſe Chambers were in the two Angles of the Dormitories, and though all

all the reſt fell, theſe two remained untouch'd, out of which they came down by Ladders.

There is likewiſe fallen the Church of the Nuns of St. *Gaudioſus*, the Marble Pulpit of the Cathedral, with a great part of the *Croſier*, where was the Chappel and the Sepulchre of the defunct Archbiſhop *Caracciolo*, and all the Coverings are open. Of the Palace of *Macedonio*, near the *Guglia* of St. *Dominick*, the greater part of the Corner is fallen, three Perſons being killed as they paſſed by in the Street; the violence of which Ruine having cauſed two great Balconies of Maſſie Iron that were under it, to fall.

We omit many other Churches which have greatly ſuffered, to wit, the *Cupola* of the Treaſures of St. *Gennaro*. That of St. *Mary* the greater, of the Fathers *Minorits*, called the *Holy Stone*, is in ſuch a manner opened and crack'd, that in touching one Stone of it to mend it, the whole certainly would fall. That of the Royal Monaſtery of St. *Clair*, which is one of the moſt famous Iſles of a Temple that are in *Italy*, St. *Tireſa* of the naked feet, St. *Martin* of the *Carthuſians*, the Croſs of *Luca* of the *Nuns*, the Tower of the *Carmelites*,

melites, the Church of St. *Mary* of the truth, of the *Agoſtius* bare-footed, are in a manner wholly ruined, with a private Hall, and a double Dormitory. If thoſe Fathers will have any ſervice of it, they muſt pull it down and rebuild it.

The Church of St. *Severino*, of the *Benedictines*, with the Dormitories, that of the *Annuſiata*, that of *D. Alvina* of the *Nuns*, the Health of the *Dominicans*, all theſe, and others, which for brevity are omitted, remain open'd to ſuch a degree, that to repair them will require vaſt Riches: In fine, there has been no Edifice which has not ſuffered a great ſhaking; the Concuſſion having been ſuch, that in many Churches the Bells have rung of themſelves. Againſt ſuch a direful Misfortune there was no other Remedy but to fly to the Churches, and his Excellency, our *Vice-Roy*, was the firſt gave the Example; who, ſpur'd by his natural Piety and Chriſtian Goodneſs, went preſently to the Church of the *Carmelites*, where was unveil'd the miraculous Crucifix, and continued for divers days to implore the Divine Aſſiſtance in ſuch eminent Dangers; as likewiſe did his Eminency the Cardinal Archbiſhop, who gave away his Authority

thority to the Confeſſors to abſolve all Caſes; ſuch was the Terror fixt in the Hearts of the Citizens, as thinking this to be the laſt day of their Lives, they confeſt themſeves publickly: others walking about the City, cryed with a loud Voice, *Miſerecordia.* The Religious Men coming out with the Miſſions to exhort the People to Repentance for every one of their Sins. But that which greatly mov'd Compaſſion, was, to ſee an infinite number of Virgins with their Hair about their Heads, who went about the Streets in Proceſſion, crying (Men and Children doing the ſame, covered with Aſhes and weighty Croſſes) endeavouring by their innocent Tears to mitigate the Divine Wrath, manifeſted in ſo ſevere a Chaſtiſement; for which the Citizens being with Reaſon afraid, and doubting leſt the Earthquake ſhould return, as indeed it did ſeveral times in theſe days, tho' without new damage; ſome abandoning their own Houſes, went to repoſe on the Sea-ſhore of *Chiaia*, at the *Largo* of the Caſtle, and of the *Spirito Sancto*, and in all other Places where they might not become offended by the Ruines of the Edifices. Others ſlept in Coaches, others under Aunings and Huts: In

ſine, there was nothing elſe ſeen any where but Confuſion and Horror; and this was increaſed by the ſeeing the Religious Perſons in Proceſſion, covered with Aſhes, loaden with Chains, with Stones hanging about their Necks, a ſight which drew from the moſt inferiour of the Hearts abundance of Tears, which has likewiſe ſerv'd for an incentive to many Strumpets to abandon their wicked Lives, and to return into the way of Salvation, retiring themſelves into Monaſteries, and other Pious Places, until ſuch time a Place for ſuch purpoſe be compleated, which is deſigned by the Piety of charitable Perſons. His Excellency the *Vice-Roy* never abandon'd his Reſidence, it concerning him to watch for the publick Government; and his goings abroad have been only from the Palace to the *Carmelites* Church, an Action which hath enlightned the Zeal of every one to imitate him, and not to abandon the City, which otherwiſe would have been depopulated; beſides his publick going about the Streets ſeveral times to view the Ruines, and animate the People with his Preſence; and to prevent any Damages or Diſorders that might happen in the like Conjunctures. Having called the co-

lateral

lateral Councils, he cauſed ſeveral Orders, worthy of his Prudence, to be ſent out, particularly ſuſpending the Priviledge of Play, until a new Order from *Spain*; for though the thing be indifferent, yet the Malice of Men, with the tye of Avarice, and the deſire of Gain, were the cauſe of infinite Enormities. His Excellency has alſo cauſed a general viſit to be made in the Priſons of the *Vicaria*, and other Priſons, for ſeveral days together; and ordered the Puniſhments of ſeveral condemn'd Perſons to be leſſened; he likewiſe commanded that the price of Iron and Timber be not altered, but that it be ſold at the former price, to prevent frauds in the Sellers, who in the preſent Neceſſities had doubled the prices; and as for Labourers, that they do not pretend more Wages than uſual. And becauſe the great Palace of the *Vicaria* has ſuffered in ſeveral parts of it, to avoid the ſad Inconveniency by the bringing together a numerous People in thoſe rooms, he hath hitherto ſuſpended the Tribunals. In fine, the Houſes and Palaces being all opened, beſides thoſe that are fallen, nothing elſe is minded but the repairing of them. But let us turn our Eye from the domeſtick Ruines,

to thoſe abroad, for if here we lament, all laughter abroad is baniſh'd in all thoſe Places where this rigorous Scourge hath been felt.

At firſt ſight is repreſented a doleful Tragedy of the demoliſhed City of *Beneventum*, no more that ancient *Sannia*, celebrated in Hiſtories, but a heap of Stones, it being all levelled, except the Tower of the Cathedral; ſo that the fineſt Epitaph might be there written, Here was *Beneventum*, there not being one ſtone left upon another; therefore it is eſteem'd miraculous, that notwithſtanding the total Ruines of the City, all its Citizens were not deſtroyed. His Eminency, *Orſini* the Archbiſhop, was at that time diſcourſing with a Gentleman of *Apice*, named *John Baptiſt Regina*, a great Confident of his Eminency, they fell together, both being buried, tho' the ſecond after an hour and half, was found dead at the feet of his Eminency, and the Cardinal was ſaved miraculouſly, there falling upon him an Image in Paper of St. *Phillip Nery*, to whom he is a very great Devotiſt; he not having receiv'd any other hurt than a few ſlight Wounds in his Head, and bruiſes in his Body: And though he was thus hurt by the Stones, and terrified by the Accident,

yet

yet regarding the Obligation of a zealous Paſtor, he reſolved to adminiſter the Sacraments of Penance and Euchariſt to his languiſhing Sheep that were ſaved out of the Ruines.

The day following, his Eminency went to *Monteſarchio*, belonging to his Dioceſs, not above eight miles diſtant from *Beneventum*, as well to be cured, as from thence to provide for the needs of his Flock, as he had done in ſending every day four Cart-loads of Bread. Of the Nuns only one is dead, and ſixty eight ſaved themſelves, who miraculouſly going out of the Monaſteries, went alſo for *Monteſarchio*, where they ſtill remain in the Convent of the Fathers *Soccolants*; his Eminency having aſſigned the Friars another Place; in the mean time they are maintained at the charge of his Eminency, who is come to *Naples* to endeavour to put them all into Monaſteries of their own Religions.

As concerning the dead, hitherto their number is calculated to be about 3500, and 800 wounded; and amongſt the chief, the Marqueſs of *Tufo*, who arrived there two hours before, as he was diſcourſing with other Gentlemen and Friends that went to viſit him, all being buried amongſt the Stones.

In

In the State of the Duke of *Matalone*, there have been great Damages, ſo as eight Villages are wholly deſtroyed; particularly *Caretto*, which was the greateſt and richeſt, there being a Manufactory of Woollen Cloth; ſo that beſides the total Ruine of the Edifices, the number of the dead in all the ſaid State is calculated in about eight thouſand, and eight hundred wounded. And becauſe lamentable Cries of People oppreſt were heard in ſeveral Places, all poſſible diligence was uſed to afford them ſuch help as the neceſſity and ſtraightneſs of time would permit; which was ſo ſucceſful, that above four hundred Perſons were dig'd out alive; and amongſt them a Women big with Child miraculouſly was preſerved alive for the ſpace of eleven days. Terror and dread in thoſe parts are the more increaſed by the opening of a Mountain in its Neighbourhood, no one daring to approach it, ſo as to meaſure the largeneſs of its Mouth, fearing therefrom a greater than the paſt danger. Thoſe which are ſaved are ſo terrified with fear, that they can hardly ſpeak, much leſs give a full Account of what hapned. Of eighty Nuns that were in the ſaid Village, only twenty had

had the Indulgence from Heaven to remain alive; the which ſtay'd for ſome days together under Huts, until they were transferred to *Mataloni*; the Religious Perſons dyed, all except the *Capucines*, who being from home, received not any conſiderable damage, tho' they were not exempted from being hurt in ſeveral Places. The Villages of *Laurenziello* and *Pretcroia* felt the ſhock more than others, there not remaining one Perſon alive, who might carry the unhappy News of ſo great a Misfortune. Thoſe of *Guardia*, St. *Laurenzo*, *Pontelandolfo*, and of St. *Lupo*, partly ruin'd, partly opened, and hurt in ſuch a manner, that a very light ſhaking would be ſufficient totally to demoliſh them. In the Principality of *Avellino*, the damage hath been leſs conſiderable; in the ſame City the Church was all cleft, and the Biſhops Palace, with the Convent of *Franciſcans* and its Church, as alſo the Church of St. *Mary* of *Conſtantinople*, are all in part demoliſhed; and to ſpeak in general, all the other Palaces and Edifices have ſuffered. The Villages of *Serino* and *Atripalda* belonging to the ſame Prince, with many other Houſes, have ſuffered very much; but above all, the tremendous

ſights.

ſights which compoſe the Ruines of *Padula*, *Apice*, *Caſtellopoto*, and *Mirabella*, draw Aſtoniſhment; the two firſt wholly levelled; of the third there is remaining a ſign of the Caſtle, and the Foundations of the fourth, only twenty five Houſes of four hundred and fifty which were in it. In *Montecalvo* there fell about ſixty or more Houſes, with great mortality of Perſons. *Montoro*, likewiſe belonging to the Prince of *Riccia*, hath ſuffered vaſt damage, there being fallen above fifty Houſes, with the Palace of the *Barony*. There is no one dead in this place, having had time to eſcape; and at the ſame time of the Earthquake there fell from the adjacent Mountain, a very great quantity of Stones, to ſuch a degree, that they rooted up a great number of Trees.

In the Barony of *Monteſuſcholi*, there is no Place which hath not felt the ſtroke of this Scourge; In *Monteſuſcholi* only are fallen the Walls of the great Church, the *Cupola*, the Tower broken to pieces, and the remainder in ſuch ſort batter'd, as that the Cannons cannot officiate; wherefore they are gone to exerciſe their uſual Functions in St. *Leonard's* Church, that having receiv'd the leaſt harm. Divers Houſes

Houſes with two Palaces are fallen, but with little Mortality of People. The Villages of St. *Nazario*, St. *Peter Dellacalvi*, of St. *Angilo*, and of St. *Paulina*, have run the ſame ſad Fate, there having periſhed only one Girl and one old Woman. The City of *Ariano* is almoſt totally levell'd: in the City of *Cava*, above one half of the Cathedral is demoliſhed, and part of the Church belonging to the *Franciſcan* Fathers.

In *Vitulano*, a Place belonging to the Prince of *Monteſarchio*, there are fallen many Houſes, but the damage has been far greater in the Villages of *Figlianeſe*, *Tambari*, *Vincente* and *Roſſi*, though not with the deſtruction of many People; who being buſie abroad in dreſſing the Fields, were exempted from Perſonal partaking of the Ruins, but are now forced to live under poor Hutts, their Houſes being all deſtroy'd.

The Tenth currant, the Earthquake returning in the Neighbourhood of *Benevento*, with a far ſtronger ſhock than at firſt, the Lands belonging to the Families of *Albero* and *Fragnitiello*, were in a manner all levelled, with the death of a great number of People.

In the State of the Duke of *Laurenzano* it hath likewiſe executed its fierceneſs, and particularly in the City of *Aliſe*, one half of it almoſt being ruinated; with the Cathedral, Convent, and Church of the *Franciſcans*, with the death of above thirty Perſons. *Piedmont* hath likewiſe ſuffered the like diſaſter, there being fallen above thirty Houſes, with the Church and Steeple of the moſt holy *Annuntiata*, but with the Death only of fifteen Perſons.

In the Villages of *Caſtello*, St. *Gregorio*, St. *Potito*, *Gjoia*, and its appurtenances, as alſo the Barony of *Capriata*, *Foſſacieca*, *Civriano*, and St. *Mary* of *Olivet*, though there are many Houſes fallen, yet there are but about twenty Perſons killed, for that the People were buſie in the fields.

In the time of the Earthquake the courſe of the River failed, which runs through the ſaid Lands of *Piedmont*, at the bottom of the Mountain of *Mateſe*, and after the Earthquake was over, the Water returned in greater abundance, but thick, ſtinking, and very hot, having in the ſame Mountain *Mateſe* broken ſeveral ſmall Mountains in ſunder; and in the Valley cauſed divers openings of the Ground, with Springs of Water. In

In the State of *Alvignano*, belonging to the Uncle of the ſaid Duke of *Laurenzano*, beſides the Houſes which are fallen, and crack'd ready to fall, the Barony Palace in *Alvignano* is totally demoliſh'd, with the Houſes round about it, the Church, with the Steeple, and the Tavern of St. *Ferrante*: but not one was killed, all being abroad in the Fields; and divers Women that were there, were miraculouſly drawn out of the Ruines alive.

In St. *George*, a Village belonging to the Marqueſs of *Torrecuſa*, there is a Mouth opened about three palms wide, about two miles in length; and ſome trying to meaſure its bottom, could find none.

The Monaſtery of the Nuns of St. *Mary* of the *Help*, has irreparably ſuffer'd to ſuch a degree, that the whole Fabrick being fallen, the Nuns have been neceſſitated to forſake it, they not being able to find Reception in the Neighbouring Houſes, they being alſo crack'd; neither could they have it in the Palace over againſt them, belonging to the Count *D. Franciſco Magnacavallo*, whoſe Quality and Birth would have received them, had not his Walls likewiſe been falling. His Eminency, the Archbiſhop *Pig-*

natelli, has cauſed them to be received into the Trinity of Pilgrims, by means of the Cannon of *Luca*, Protector of that Monaſtery.

This is only a ſingle rough-draught of the miſerable Tragedy repreſented by Divine Juſtice in the Scene of this Kingdom, that ſo it may ſerve as a Glaſs to Poſterity; wherein they may behold, as it were painted, thoſe Scourges which Heaven ſends againſt thoſe who proſtitute the Obſervances of the Divine Precepts. It not being poſſible to aſcribe this ſo rigorous a Chaſtiſement to ought elſe but our own Sins, we hope through the Divine Piety, and by the Tears and Penances of ſo many Innocents which invoke him hourly, he will be pleaſed to appeaſe his Anger, and not to inflict on us an farther Chaſtiſement than what we have already felt: which God of his Infinite Mercy grant. *Amen.*

The

The City and Kingdom of Naples *described, as they ſtood before this dreadful* Earthquake.

THE Kingdom of *Naples* is one thouſand five hundred miles in compaſs, four hundred and fifty wide; it hath in it twenty Archbiſhops Seats, an hundred and twenty five Biſhops Seats, a thouſand five hundred Boroughs, two Millions of Souls, ten *Principalities*, twenty three *Dutchies*, thirty Marquiſates, fifty four *Counties*, and about a thouſand *Baronies*, whereof four hundred are ancient: It can raiſe an hundred and fifty thouſand Foot, and an hundred thouſand Horſe. Its ordinary Squadron of Gallies are but twenty.

As to *Naples*, the Metropolis of that Kingdom, It is ſeated upon the Shore of the *Mediterranean Sea*, and though it be reckoned the third of *Italy* for Greatneſs, 'tis the firſt for Strength and Neatneſs; and therefore deſervedly called *La Gentile*. So great are the Delights that Nature hath allotted to this Place, that 'tis always reſorted to by Perſons of Great Quality. The Streets are well paved with Free-ſtones, large and even, the Houſes very

very uniform, flat on the top to walk on, a notable Convenience in those hot Countries. Another like Accomodation which the City hath against the Heat, is the *Mole*; which is an Artificial Street running it self a quarter of a mile into the Sea, whither all the Gentry at the Evenings resort to take the *Fresco*. The chief Palaces are the stately Palaces of the *Vice-Roy*, that of *Grabma*, *Caraffa*, *Ursino*, *Salmone*, *Toledo*, *&c.* It hath three Castles, *St. Elmo*, built by *Charles* the Fifth, *Vovo*, built by *William* the Third of *Normandy*, upon a Rock in the Sea; and *Castle Nuvo*, built by *Charles* of *Anjou*, designed King of *Naples*. As for the Churches here they yield to none in *Italy*, being very costly, curious, and filled with Marble and Brass Statues, and adorned with Noble Paintings. The *Domo* is ancient, and therefore out of mode a little, yet it hath a Modern Chappel which is very beautiful, and is one of the first in *Europe*, both for brazen Statues, and rich Painting: in this Chappel is the Tomb of St. *Jannavius*, Bishop of *Benevent*, and now Patron of this Town; on the left hand of this Chappel without, lyes buried Pope *Innocent* the Fourth, who ordered first that Cardinals should wear red Hats,

The

The *Annunciata* is both neat and devout, the *Cupola* and Roof are well painted and gilt: the *Hoſpital* joyning to it is of great Reception, as maintaining two thouſand ſick and decrepid in it, beſides above eight hundred Orphans and poor Children.

St. *Paulo* is very neat, and if you ſaw it with its beſt hangings, you would think it one of the neateſt Churches in *Italy*; the Roof is curiouſly painted and gilt.

The *Jeſuits* Church here is the beſt they have in *Italy*, if it be not a little too wide for its length; it is rich in Painting, Sculptures and Marbles. The High Altar was not finiſhed, but it promiſed Wonders.

St. *Maria Nova* the *Franciſcans* Church is very trim, with its neat Chappels and Tombs, and gilt Roof.

The *Dominicans* Church is very Glorious, if you do not ſurpriſe it, and take it before it be dreſſed; I ſaw it once in its beſt Attire, hung with a rich Suit of Embroidered Hangings, which ſet it out with great advantage; in the Sacriſty of this Church are depoſited in ſeveral Coffins, the Bodies of ſeveral great Perſons, here placed till their *Tombs* could be made: As of *Alphonſo* the firſt King of *Naples* and

and *Arragon*, of Queen *Joan* the unfortunate, that of an Emperour of *Conſtantinople*, that of *Durazzo*, that of *Vaſti*, with divers others.

The Church of *Olivetani* is ſtately, here lyes *Alexander ab Alexandro*, a great Antiquary; here likewiſe is the Tomb of *Brabe Marcheſe di Piſcara*, ſirnamed the *Thunderbolt* of War, with many others.

The Church of St. *John Carbonare* is conſiderable for its ſelf, but much more for the ſtately *Tomb* of King *Robert*.

In the Church of the Nunnery, which ſtands at the foot of the Hill as you go to the *Carthuſians*, I ſaw a moſt curious *Tabernacle* upon the Altar, of precions poliſhed Stones, it is one of the richeſt I have ſeen any where, except that of *Florence*.

The *Carthuſian* Church and Monaſtery, called St. *Martins*, is the moſt ſumptuous thing in all *Europe* for a Monaſtery, whether you regard its Situation or its Fabrick; It's ſituated on a high Hill under the Wing of the Caſtle of St. *Elmo*, the whole Quadrangle or Cloiſter of this Monaſtery is of white Marble poliſhed, paved with Marble ſquares, and adorned with Baluſter and white Marble Pillars; the Church exceeds the Cloyſter,

ſter, which at firſt ſight ſeemed to exceed all things: It's wholly made up of Marble, Gilding, Painting, and Inlaying, and whatever elſe of Art that might conduce to its Glory.

This City is exceeding Populous, and conſequently Vicious, he that deſires to live a Chaſt Life muſt not ſet up here; for as their Gardens are well filled with Oranges, ſo their Houſes want not Lemmons. There are uſually thirty thouſand *Curtezans* regiſtred, that pay *Taxes* for their *Pleaſure*.

Near unto *Naples* is *Virgils Tomb*, upon a high Rock, and the *Cryptea Neapolitana* in the Rocky Mountain *Pauſilippus*, cut through very high, ſpacious and well paved, ſo that for the ſpace of a Mile two Coaches may go on front under the Earth: in the midſt of it is a *Madonna* with a Lamp always burning. Not far off is the Hill of *Brimſtone*, on which neither Graſs nor Herb grows but 'tis all white with Aſhes, and ever caſts out of ſeveral holes a continual ſmoak with Flames, making the very Earth to boyl; the Ground is hollow underneath, making a hideous noiſe if ſtruck with a Hammer. On the other ſide *Naples* is the Mountain *Veſuvius*, Brother to

Ætna, upon the top whereof is a terrifying Spectacle, a *Vorago* or hole about three Miles in Compaſs, and of prodigious depth, and in the midſt a new Hill, that ſtill vomits thick Smoak which the Fire within hath raiſed, and ſtill daily encreaſeth. *Pliny* the Naturaliſt, being too inquiſitive after the cauſe of this Fire, loſt his Life in it.

Thus by a ſhort ſcantling of what this Noble City and Kingdom hath been, you will be able to make the better Judgment of its preſent moſt miſerable Condition, under this heavy Correction.

A Ca-

A Catalogue of the Cities and Villages mentioned in this Book, that received damage by the Earthquake.

Cities

- *Naples.*
- *Beneventum.*
- *Ariano.*
- *Cava.*
- *Alife.*

The Villages of

- *Caretto.*
- St. *Laurenziello.*
- St. *Preteroia.*
- St. *Laurenzo.*
- St. *Pontelandolfo.*
- St. *Lupo.*
- *Serino.*
- *Atripolda.*
- *Padula.*
- *Apice.*
- *Caſtellopoto.*
- *Mirabella.*
- *Montecalvo.*
- *Montoro.*
- *Monteſuſcholi.*

The Villages of

- St. *Nazario.*
- St. *Peter Delacalvi.*
- St. *Angilo.*
- St. *Paulino.*
- *Vitulano.*
- *Figlianeſe.*
- *Tambari.*
- *Vincente.*
- *Roſſi.*
- *Piedemonte.*
- *Caſtello.*
- St. *Gregorio.*
- St. *Potito.*
- *Gioia.*
- *Capriata.*
- *Foſſacieca.*
- *Civrino.*
- S. *Mary* of *Olivett.*

With many other places, which for brevity ſake are omitted.

FINIS.